

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 149308
ORIGIN AF-10

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DRAFTED BY AF/W: EESVENDSEN:LMG
APPROVED BY AF: WCHARROP
-----037055 130620Z /21

R 130042Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRAIA
AMEMBASSY BISSAU

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 149308

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, CV

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR VARELA MAKES FAREWELL CALL

1. AMBASSADOR VARELA OF CAPE VERDE MADE A FAREWELL CALL ON THE DEPARTMENT ON JUNE 9. DURING ONE-HALF HOUR CONVERSATION WITH MR. HARROP, HE MENTIONED THAT UNEMPLOYMENT WAS THE MAJOR PROBLEM IN CAPE VERDE, AND THAT TO ATTACK THE PROBLEM IT WAS NECESSARY TO BUILD UP THE PRIVATE SECTOR BY ATTRACTING FOREIGN INVESTMENT THROUGH INCENTIVE LAWS AND OTHER MEASURES. REGARDING U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, HE STATED THAT THE MORE ENERGETIC THE U.S. WAS, THE BETTER OFF IT WOULD BE. HE FELT THE RUSSIANS HAD BEEN QUITE ACTIVE IN AFRICA, AND THAT ONLY BY SHOWING OUR STRENGTH COULD WE HOPE FOR SUCCESS ON THE CONTINENT.

2. COMMENT: BOTH BEFORE AND DURING HIS MEETING WITH HARROP, VARELA SIGNALLED HIS RELIEF AT GIVING UP HIS DIPLOMATIC DUTIES. LOCKED OUT OF NORMAL CONTACT WITH U.S. SOCIETY AND HIS DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES BY HIS LACK OF ANY OTHER LANGUAGE THAN PORTUGUESE, HE HAS NEVER
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PAGE 02 STATE 149308

APPEARED COMFORTABLE REPRESENTING HIS COUNTRY, AND HIS IMPACT HERE HAS BEEN MODEST. VARELA DID NOT TRAVEL TO NEW ENGLAND TO MAKE ANY FAREWELL CALLS BECAUSE, IN HIS OWN

WORDS, HE DID NOT TRUST HIMSELF TO REFRAIN FROM SAYING THE WRONG THINGS. SEVERAL TIMES HE EXPRESSED HIMSELF AS UNINFORMED OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON CERTAIN

MAJORS ASPECTS OF ITS AFRICAN POLICY. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE DECLARED HIMSELF "POSITIVELY IMPRESSED" WITH THE UNITED STATES AND DESCRIBED IT AS "THE COUNTRY OF THE FUTURE." HE REGRETED NOT EVER HAVING VISITED FLORIDA AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT ONE DAY, "BUT ONLY AS A TOURIST."

3. VARELA LEAVES THE UNITED STATES ON JUNE 13 FOR LISBON, WHERE HE WILL REMAIN FOR THREE WEEKS BEFORE RETURNING TO THE ISLANDS. HE PLANS TO SET UP A LEGAL PRACTICE IN SAO VICENTE AND GROW SUGAR CANE THERE ON FAMILY OWNED LAND. ONE OF HIS TWO CHILDREN HAS RECEIVED A SCHOLARSHIP FROM AAI, AND WILL REMAIN IN THE US TO CONTINUE HIS STUDIES. VANCE

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